

Message Text

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SUBJ: HUMAN RIGHTS PROGRAMMING

1. POST MADE ITS MOST SIGNIFICANT EFFORT THUS FAR TO ADDRESS HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE BY INVITING SELECT GROUP OF 13 PRIMARY AUDIENCE MEMBERS TO PAO'S HOME FOR VTR SHOWING OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S NOTRE DAME SPEECH, FOLLOWED BY PRESENTATION ON ORIGINS AND BACKGROUND OF U.S. HUMAN RIGHTS CONCERNS BY DR. LOUIS HAYES, FULBRIGHT PROFESSOR OF POLITICAL SCIENCE AT KABUL UNIVERSITY, WHO CURRENTLY VISITING KATHMANDU.

2. PAO'S LETTER OF INVITATION TO GUESTS MADE CLAEAR DISCUSSION WOULD CENTER ON HUMAN RIGHTS. THOSE ATTENDING ERERE JOINT SECRETARY OF MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS; DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION; EDITOR OF "THE RSING NEPAL" (OFFICIAL ENGLISH LANGUAGE DAILY); A MEMBER OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RASTRIYA PANCHAYAT AND CHAIRMAN OF POLITICAL SCIENCE INSTRUCTION COMMITTEE, TIRBHUVAN UNIVERSITY, WHO ALSO IS PRESIDENT OF NEPAL COU CIL OF WORLD AFFAIRS. NONE OF FIVE HIGH-LEVEL MFA OFFICIALS INVTD ATTENDED.

3. IN WIDE-RANGING,FRANK AND FRIENDLY DISCUSSION,

NEPALESE MADE FOLLOWING POINTS CONCERNING USG
HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY:

A) USG ADVOCACY OF HUMAN RIGHTS CAN CAUSE POLITICAL
DESTABILIZATION IN SMALL COUNTRIES SUCH AS NEPAL. 8,
FURTHER CONVERSATION, PROPONENT THIS VIEW (EDITOR OF
"RISING NEPAL") POINTED OUT SAID US POSITION ON HUMAN
RIGHTS HAD GIVEN AND CONTINUES TO GIVE INDIA CARTE
BLANCHE TO CRITICIZE NEPAL'S HUMAN RIGHTS STANCE. HE
SAID GOI BELIEVES IT HAS BACKING OF US TO CRITICIZE,
IF NOT DESTABILIZE, POLITICAL SITUATION IN NEPAL.

B) USG IS NOT APPLYING HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY UNIFORMLY
OR FARILY HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS BUT WHICH USG HAS
NOT CRITICIZED. SAME PERSON NOTED NO HUMAN RIGHTS
STATEMENTS WERE ISSUED BY SECRETARY VANCE DURING OR
AFTER HIS RECENT VISIT TO PEKING.

C) ANOTHER NEPALESE NOTED USG'S ESPOUSAL OF
HUMAN RIGHTS CONSTITUTE VIOLATION OF ANOTHER
RIGHT: NONINTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF
ANOTHER COUNTRY.

D) FINAL POINT MADE WAS THAT IF USG CUT OFF
DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE TO POOR COUNTRIES BECAUSE
OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS, CURTAILING OF FINANCIAL
AID TO NEEDY WAS ITSELF VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS.

4. POST BELIEVES HAYES MADE EFFECTIVE PRESENTATION
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AND FIELDED QUESTION EXPERTLY AND PERSUASIVELY,
WITH INPUTS BY PAO, APAO AND EMBOFF. THREE-HOUR
SESSION WAS STIMULATING AND PROVOCATIVE AND POST
BELIEVES THIS FIRST EFFORT AT TREATING HUMAN RIGHTS
ISSUE IN FORTHCOMING MANNER AS USEFUL. IT IS CLEAR,
HOWEVER, THAT FAILURE OF MFA OFFICIALS TO ATTEND
DEMONSTRATES NERVOUSNESS AND SENSITIVITY OF GON TO
DISCUSS THIS ISSUE OPENLY. IT IS ALSO APPARENT THERE
IS CONSIDERABLE MISUNDERSTANDING OF USG POLICY AMONG
POST'S PRIMARY AUDIENCE MEMBERS. INDEED, JOINING SECRETARY,
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS MADE POINT USG POLICY ON
HUMAN RIGHTS NEEDS TO BE FURTHER SPELLED OUT AND EX-
PLAINED.

5. POST SUGGESTS AGENCY'S TAKE FORCE ON HUMAN
RIGHTS MAY WANT TO GIVE FURTHER THOUGHT HOW TO ADDRESS
POINTS A) THROUGH D); ALTHOUGH POST RECOGNIZES NEPALESE
APPREHENSIONS OF GOI EXPLOITATION OF ISSUE IS A SPECIAL
REGIONAL PROBLEM. MOST POINTS MENTIONED HAVE
BEEN TREATED BY AGENCY INFO-GUIDES AND PRODUCTS,
BUT IT IS CLEAR USG RESPONSES TO THESE TYPES OF
QUESTIONS MUST CONTINUOUSLY BE CLARIFIED AND

REITERATED BY USIA. POST ALSO BELIEVES RESENMENT
AGAINST USG POLICY CAN BE SOMEWHAT DEFUSED BY
EMPHASIZING HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEMS US FACES DOMESTICALLY
AND WHAT ADMINISTRATION IS DOING, FOR EXAMPLE, TO
RESTRICT ABUSES BY INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY, REFORM
WELFARE PROGRAMS, ASSIST MINORITY GROUPS, ECT.
POST, OF COURSE, WILL CONTINUE TO ADDRESS HUMAN RIGHTS
ISSUE IN LOW KEY, SENSITIVE MANNER.
STANLEY

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